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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant )  
Tadahiro Ohmi et al. ) Art Group: 7595  
Serial No.: 09/581,878 )  
Filing Date: June 19, 2000 )  
Title: SEMICONDUCTOR ) Examiner: Luz L. Alejandro  
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS ) Mulero  
)  
)  
)

RESPONSE

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TC 1700

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2003,  
having a due date of July 22, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the  
following Amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and rejected in this application.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended hereby. Applicants submit that  
none of the changes set forth herewith constitute new matter or  
raise new issues.

5 Support in the specification for the amendments to claims 1  
and 2 can be found, e.g., in Fig. 2 (i.e., vacuum vessel bottom  
plate 102 and wafer stage 105) and at page 10, line 26, through  
page 11, line 2. Applicant further submits that no new issues  
are raised as the terminology "fixedly provided" is within the  
10 scope and meaning of "substantially constant vertical position"